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INFO RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY 0713
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RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 6302
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY 1813
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 1663
RUEHBM/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY 0463
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 1286
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY 0070
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY 1205
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KIEV PRIORITY 0484
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ AUG 0251
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 0471
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 6213
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RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 1961
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY 0455
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RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 0928
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY 2573
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY 0803
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 005697

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TAGS: PREL PHUM UNHRC FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH SHARE CONCERNS ON HRC; NOTE NOMINATION FOR
INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION

REF: A. STATE 136467

1B. STATE 137429

Classified By: CDA Josiah Rosenblatt for reasons 1.4 (B & D).

Human Rights Council

11. (C) Acting Polcouns shared ref A points August 21 with newly arrived MFA DAS-equivalent for UN Human Rights Affairs Jacques Pellet and discussed ref A demarche with him August 24, highlighting growing U.S. concerns with the Council's lack of balance and objectivity, particularly as demonstrated in the two recent extraordinary sessions' treatment of Israel (on Gaza and Lebanon). He added that the unwillingness of other Council members to take issue with the OIC's refusal to compromise further threatened to undermine the credibility of the Council.

12. (C) Speaking informally, Pellet assured A/Polcouns that France shared U.S. concerns, and he claimed that, on the Gaza resolution, the French permrep in Geneva had made clear in a separate statement following the presentation of the agreed EU position by the Finnish presidency that the EU statement had not gone far enough. (Comment: We understand that USMission Geneva may have a different understanding of the French intervention and its motivation.) France had found the HR Council's initial session satisfactory, but was displeased with the results of the two extraordinary sessions. The OIC's tactics were inconsistent with the spirit of dialogue and cooperation that was supposed to characterize the HRC, but how to address the problem was far

from clear. He said the OIC states had done the arithmetic and concluded that they could ask for a session and pass a resolution with little or no debate.

¶13. (C) A/Polcouns noted that GRULAC passivity was also a problem, but suggested the Europeans could also show a little more spine; he expressed disappointment that the Swiss had abstained on the resolution after failing to change it. Pellet agreed that the EU could do more, but lamented the failure of the EU to achieve consensus on a tougher approach. He did not elaborate on the extent to which France was pushing other member states in that direction.

¶14. (C) Pellet said he would be open to U.S. views on how to improve the situation, noting that the new PDAS-equivalent for IO Affairs, Ambassador Giacomini, until recently the French permrep in Geneva, would prepared to join such a discussion.

International Law Commission election

¶15. (C) A/Polcouns used the occasion to deliver ref B demarche in support of Michael Matheson. Pellet undertook to pass it to the appropriate people in the IO bureau and said he would ask them to communicate the French response.

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Rosenblatt